

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action dated September 10, 2003. The applicant requests that the time in which to respond to the Office Action be extended for two-months up to and including February 10, 2004. The fee of 420.00 required to affect a two-month extension of time is included with this correspondence. In the event that the Commissioner finds that any additional fee is required to affect this extension, he is authorized to duly debit our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Claims 1 to 9 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the present amendment and the following remarks.

The Examiner, in the second item of the Office Action dated September 10, 2003 indicated that claim 7 is objected to because of informalities. In response to the Examiner's objection, claim 7 has been amended as set forth above, without adding any additional subject matter. In view of the amendment to claim 7, the Examiner's objection is believed to be traversed and the claim is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner, in the third item of the Office Action, indicates that claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner indicated as follows:

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said current notifying state" in the last line. The amendment changed all prior "current notifying states" to "current game states." Consequently, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In response to the Examiner's concern, "said current notifying state" in the last

line is changed to "said current game state." In view of the amendment, the Examiner's rejection is believed to be no longer applicable.

The Examiner, in the fifth item of the Office Action, indicates that claims 2, 4, and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the Examiner's indication, claims 2, 4, and 9 have been amended as set forth above to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. In view of the amendment, it is submitted that the Examiner's objection is traversed and the claims are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner, in the fourth item of the Office Action, indicates that claims 1, 3, and 5 to 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sunaga et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,106,393 in view of Kaufman, U.S. Patent No. 4,624,459. In response to the Examiner's indication, claim 1 has been canceled and claims 3, 5, and 8 have been amended to be dependent upon claim 2, which is submitted to be patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. In view of the amendment, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection is no longer applicable.

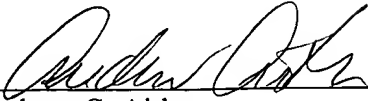
For the above reasons, it is believed that the application and claims as amended are clearly now in proper condition for allowance, and reconsideration and early

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allowance of the amended application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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